

one of the first models for how such efforts can succeed is the vision Paul Tsongas had for Lowell, MA.

F. Scott Fitzgerald may have said there are no second acts in American life, but Paul Tsongas could have responded, "Let him come to Lowell."

Paul served in the House and joined me in the Senate in 1978. He was someone I knew I could always count on to fight hard for the people of Massachusetts, and the Nation. He was tireless, determined, and always well prepared. Sometimes we would disagree on policy matters, here and there, but if you were going to challenge Paul, you had better have your facts straight because he knew what he was talking about.

He also was an outstanding campaigner. The conventional wisdom in politics has always been—at least as long as I can remember—that candidates with difficult to pronounce names have a small additional hurdle.

Paul had a silent "t" at the beginning of his name, and I will never forget how brilliantly he turned that small disadvantage into a major asset in his victorious campaigns for elective office.

He ran hilarious ads that had all these people struggling to pronounce his name, and none of them could do it. But by the end of the campaign, every voter could do the silent "t" and everyone loved the candidate who made fun of himself on TV.

It's a lesson that Paul would carry on throughout his courageous battle against cancer. Everyone faces obstacles—some great and some small. It's how we choose to deal with them that makes us who we are.

Paul Tsongas was an inspiration to all who knew him. The son of a Greek immigrant father and a mother who died of tuberculosis, he demonstrated again and again that through hard work, commitment, and a passion for doing what is right, all things are possible in our America.

He charted a new course for the city he loved. He authored the Alaska Lands Act to protect millions of acres of American wilderness, and he founded, with our former colleague, Warren Rudman, the Concord Coalition, which has become a highly respected force for fiscal responsibility since its creation in the early 1990s.

When the diagnosis of cancer was made, he left the Senate to spend more time with his wonderful wife Niki, his loving sister Thaleia, and his three daughters, Ashley, Katina, and Molly.

After completing his rigorous treatment, he threw his hat in the Presidential ring in the 1992 primaries and his candidacy helped fuel the movement to make Government accountable for its fiscal policies. He left an immense and enduring legacy.

We miss you, Paul. We miss your bravery and your commitment. We miss your friendship and concern, but we know you are resting in peace today after an extraordinary and well-lived life.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARDIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. For the information of the Senate, the Chair makes the following announcement:

The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, pursuant to the provisions of 201(a)(2) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, have appointed Dr. Peter R. Orszag as Director of the Congressional Budget Office effective immediately for the term expiring January 3, 2011.

The Senator from South Dakota is recognized.

Mr. THUNE. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. THUNE and Mr. SALAZAR pertaining to the introduction of S. 331 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DISCHARGE AND REFERRAL

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. Res. 32 be discharged from the Rules Committee and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CONRAD. I thank the Chair. I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROTECT THE POWER OF THE PEOPLE

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, in the late hours last night, I took to the floor to decry some Senators who wish, if I may put it in this language, to sabotage the

ethics reform legislation with a dangerous and unconstitutional line-item veto proposal. What is happening is little more than political blackmail, and the American people—those people out there who are watching through the lenses above the President's chair, the American people—should be outraged. I have been around here a long time. I have spoken on this subject many times. This so-called line-item veto is an assault on the single most important protection that the American people have against a President, any President, who wants to run roughshod over the liberties of the people prescribed in the Constitution. Today I am talking about the congressional power over the purse. The congressional power that is right here, and over on the other side of the Capitol, the congressional power over the purse.

Weaken the power of the purse and one weakens strong—the word "strong" is too weak—one weakens oversight, for example, on this bloody nightmare of a war in Iraq. Get that? Weaken the power over the public purse and we weaken the oversight over this bloody war in Iraq. That is just one example. One weakens the power of the purse and one weakens the checks on a President who wants to tap into personal telephone calls or pry into bank accounts or tear open the mail. Without congressional power over the purse—money—there is no effective way to stop an out-of-control President who is bent on his way, no matter the price, no matter the repercussion. Make no mistake—hear me, now. The Roman orator would say, "Romans, lend me your ears." Make no mistake, this line-item veto authority would grant tremendous—I say tremendous and dangerous—new power to the President.

There are new Members of this body. Perhaps we ought to have some discussions about the line-item veto. The President would have unchecked authority to imperil congressional power over the purse, a power that the constitutional Framers felt was absolutely vital to reining in an overzealous President.

Eight years ago, the United States Supreme Court ruled that the line-item veto—hear me, Senators; you may be watching your boob tubes. Hear me. Eight years ago, the United States Supreme Court ruled that the line-item veto was unconstitutional. I said at the time that the Supreme Court saved the Congress from its own folly. But now, it seems, memories in this Senate are short and wisdom may be even shorter in supply. Here we are, on the heels of 6 years of assault on personal liberty, 6 years of a do-nothing Congress all too willing to turn its eyes from the real problems of the Nation, 6 years of rubberstamps and rubber spines—here we are, all too ready to jettison the single most important protection of the people's liberties: the power of the purse.

Let's review the record. We have a President—I say this in all due respect.